Thou gav'st thine ears, like tapsters, that bid welcome [2] To knaves, and all approachers : Tis most just, That thou turn rascal; had'st thou wealth again, Rascals should have't. Do not assume my likeness.

TIM. Were I like thee, I'd throw away myself. *APEM.* Thou hast cast away thyself, being like thyself;

A madman so long, now a fool: What, think'st That the bleak air, thy boisterous chamberlain, Will put thy shirt on warm ? Will these moss'd trees[3], That have outliv'd the eagle [4], page thy heels,

[2] —like tapsters, that BID welcome,] So, in our author's Venus and Adonis:

" Like shrill-tongu'd tapsters answering every call, [66] Soothing the humour of fantastick wits."

The old copy has—bad welcome. Corrected in the second folio,

M ALONE.

3 —MOSS'D trees,] [Old copy—moist trees.] Sir Thomas Hanmer reads very elegantly :

«-------*moss'd* trees,"

JOHNSON*.

Shakspeare uses the same epithet in As You Like It, Act IV. s " Under an oak, whose boughs were *moss'd with* age."

STEEVENS.

So also Drayton, in his Mortimeriados, no date : " Even as a bustling tempest rousing blasts [5f] Upon a forest of old branching oakes, [f] * And with his furie teyrs their *mossy* loaks." *Moss'd* is, I believe, the true reading. M ALONE. I have inserted this reading in the text, because there is less propriety in the epithet—moist ;* it being a known truth that trees become more and more e? ry, as they encrease in age. Thus, our author, in his Rape of Lucrece, observes, that it is one of the properties of time—

" To *dry* the *old* oak's sap ."

STEEVENS.

[4] — outliv'd the eagle,] ^*Aqwla Senectus* is a proverb. I learn from Turberville's Book of Falconry, 1575, that the great age of this bird has been ascertained from the circumstance of its always building its *eyrie** or nest, in the same place.

STEEVENS,